

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rimhagen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6721278) in view of Scholefieled et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5752193). Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Rimhagen. Claims 7, 19 and 25 have been cancelled, thus mooted the rejection of those claims.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 11. Independent Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 23. Claims 11 and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 13 are now allowable. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 2-6, 8-10, 12, 14-18, 20-22 and 24 are allowable by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 13. Applicant requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please charge any fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees, to 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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